

What is claimed is:

1. A latch mechanism for selectively latching a door to an automotive vehicle, said latch mechanism comprising:
 - 5 a latch hook movable between a locked position and an unlocked position;
 - a release lever operatively coupled to said latch hook for selectively moving said latch hook between said locked and unlocked positions; and
 - an inertia lever engagable with said release lever to prevent movement of said latch hook between said locked and unlocked positions, said inertia lever movably
 - 10 supported within said latch mechanism for moving in and out of engagement with said release lever in response to a side impact upon the vehicle.
2. A latch mechanism as set forth in claim 1 wherein said release mechanism includes a slot presenting sides for engaging a portion of said inertia lever for
 - 15 automatically toggling said inertia lever in response to movement of said release lever to prevent seizing of said inertia lever within the latch mechanism.
3. A latch mechanism according to claim 1 including means for biasing said inertia lever to a first position out of engagement with said release lever.
 - 20
4. A latch mechanism according to claim 3, wherein said inertia lever includes a tab and said release lever includes a slot which is aligned with and engages said tab when said release lever is actuated to unlock said latch hook when said inertia lever is in said first position.
 - 25
5. A latch mechanism according to claim 4, wherein upon side impact said inertia lever moves to a second position such that said tab is not aligned with said slot.
6. A latch mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said inertia lever is pivotally
 - 30 mounted within said latch mechanism.